

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 25, 2005, a federal grand jury returned an Indictment against **JULIE A. BECKERT**, age 52 of Lebanon, Illinois, charging: **BANK FRAUD: FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK**, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344. The offense carries a total maximum statutory penalty of up to thirty (30) years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, and up to five (5) years' supervised release.

The Indictment alleges that **JULIE A. BECKERT** was employed by the First Federal Savings Bank in the computer department, also working occasionally as a teller, and through that employment defrauded that financial institution, from 1999 through August of 2003, of money and funds belonging to the bank. **JULIE A. BECKERT** worked at a branch facility located in Lebanon, Illinois. The Indictment further charges that **JULIE A. BECKERT** deprived the bank out of the intangible right to her honest services. **JULIE A. BECKERT** *is presumed innocent of the charges until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.*

The Indictment follows an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.